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DOCKET NO. 01-C-086 (STMI01-01086)
Customer No. 30425

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Danielle A. Thomas, et al.
U.S. Serial No. : 10/091,743
Filed : March 6, 2002
For : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING A REDISTRIBUTION
METAL LAYER IN AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT
Group No. : 3729
Examiner : DONGHAI D. NGUYEN

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the following documents:

1. Response to Restriction Requirement; and
2. Postcard Receipt

relating to the above application, were deposited as "First Class Mail" with the United States Postal Service, addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 2, 2005.

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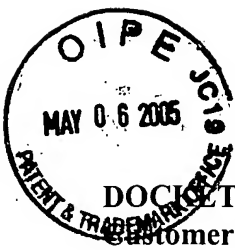
Date:

Apr. 30, 2005

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 31, 2005, the Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group 1, Claims 1-10, WITH TRAVERSE.

The Restriction Requirement states that the inventions of Group I and Group II are related "as process of making and product made." (*Office Action, Page 2, Last paragraph*). A process of making and a product made by the process "can be shown to be distinct inventions if either or both of the following can be shown: (A) that the process as claimed is not an obvious process of making

the product and the process as claimed can be used to make other and different products; or (B) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process.” (*MPEP* § 806.05(f)).

The Restriction Requirement asserts that the invention of Group II “can be made by another and materially different process such as forming the polyimide layer over the redistribution metal layer by printing to pattern the polyimide layer without any etching.” (*Office Action, Page 2, Last paragraph*). This assertion contradicts the express recitations in the claims, particularly Claim 11 of Group II.

Claim 11 specifically recites an integrated circuit having a polyimide layer that “is etched to leave at least one portion of the redistribution metal layer open to receive at least one solder bump.” The Restriction Requirement improperly asserts that the integrated circuit of Claim 11 can be made by “printing to pattern the polyimide layer without any etching.” Claim 11 specifically recites that the polyimide layer “is etched” to leave one or more portions of a redistribution metal layer open.

The Patent Office cannot ignore express recitations in the claims when making a restriction. The “polyimide layer” recited in Claims 1 and 11 are both formed by etching. As a result, the Restriction Requirement has not shown that the “integrated circuit” recited in Claim 11 can be made by “another and materially different process” as required by the MPEP.

For these reasons, the Restriction Requirement fails to satisfy the requirements for restricting the claims of the patent application. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.